



It's easy to forget.

Because of the partisanship of our political environment and the sensationalized way in which the political process is portrayed, it can be easy to forget that our elected officials are human beings in need of the same grace and spiritual strength upon which you and I rely.

Many of them respond to the call of public service at great personal cost, sacrificing time with their families or other professional opportunities to come to Nashville and do what they think is best for their communities.

Though we may not always agree with their decisions, our legislators deserve our prayerful support - especially during these strenuous last few days of session.

—*Vanitcan Insider (2017)*

Three more weeks

The General Assembly is winding down. Here's what has happened since the last CAN issue.

Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

HB126 / SB161 – School Vouchers - As introduced, enacts the "Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program. Amendment placed on the bill removes state test taking mandate. **This bill will be heard in the House Finance sub-Committee 4-26 and in the Senate Finance Committee 4-25. It was not heard this week. The vote is very close in the House committee.**

If you live in one of these committee members district, ask them to vote YES on HB126 / Opportunity Scholarship: Rep. Karen Camper, Rep. Jim Coley, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, Rep. David Hawk, Rep. Gary Hicks, Rep. Harold Love, Rep. Steve McDaniel. **YOUR ask could tip the vote count to a victory.**

It's FAST and EASY. Click the button below, type your zip code in the "Find Officials" Box, and follow the instructions.

[Send Your Representative a Message](#)

Makes Licensed Clinical Social Workers Exempt from Subpoena to Trial | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB041 / HB003 – Civil Procedure - As introduced, makes licensed clinical social workers exempt from subpoena to trial but subject to subpoena to a deposition. **This bill has passed in the House Ayes 85, Nays 3. On the Senate side it has been assigned to Judiciary sub-committee.**

[Learn more about this bill](#)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services 3-year Behavioral Health Pilot Project | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB045 / HB070 – Appropriations - As introduced, appropriates \$4.5 million to the department of mental health and substance abuse services to make a grant for a three-year behavioral health pilot project. **This legislation will be behind the budget, which means once the budget is passed appropriations will be decided on.**

[Learn more about this bill](#)

Creates a Pilot Program For The Treatment of Minor Victims of Human Trafficking | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB552 / HB616 – Children - As introduced, creates a pilot program for the treatment of minor victims of human trafficking for commercial sex act; requires that report be submitted to the senate judiciary committee and criminal justice committee of the house of representatives following the conclusion of the pilot program. **This bill will also be put behind the budget.**

The Department of Children's Services reports that the affected youths are currently covered at a cost of at least \$150 per day; therefore, the estimated fiscal impact is as follows:

Increase State Expenditures - \$349,900

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$270,600

[Learn more about this bill](#)

Eligible for Payment of In-State Tuition | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB635 / HB660 – As introduced, authorizes the governing body of each public institution of higher education to determine the qualifications that students must possess to be eligible for payment of in-state tuition. This legislation allows in-state tuition for students that came to America when they were very young and desire to further their education and achieve citizenship. **The Senate has not set a date for a floor vote yet. The House has deferred the bill until 2018.**

[Learn more about this bill](#)

Exempts Certain Students from Payment of Out-Of-State Tuition | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB1014 / HB863 – Education - As introduced, exempts certain students from payment of out-of-state tuition at state institutions of higher education. **This bill was killed in the House Education Administration Committee.**

[Learn more about this bill](#)

Authorizes Medical Assistance for Language Interpreter Services | TNCPPC SUPPORTS

SB852 / HB584 – TennCare - As introduced, authorizes the TennCare program to provide medical assistance for language interpreter services. **This has been passed in both houses.**

[Learn more about this bill](#)

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Tennessee Catholic Public Policy Commission gives witness to Gospel values in public affairs and government, engages and informs the Catholic Community on crucial social issues, and encourages and facilitates advocacy and participation in the Tennessee Legislative process. www.tncppc.org

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